

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief Ronal W. Serpas**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Washington State Patrol SWAT Accomplishments for the First Half of 2003**

In the first six months of 2003, the Washington State Patrol Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) has compiled the following accomplishments:

- 284 calls for service, a 48% increase over the prior six months
- 270 total responses, a 44% increase over the prior six months
- 89 meth labs processed, a 9% increase over the prior six months
- 5 weapons of mass destruction events, a 100% increase over the prior six months
- 14 lab/tactical missions, a 9% increase over the prior six months
- 29 pro-active meth investigations, a 52% increase over the prior six months
- 13 tactical missions, an 8% increase over the prior six months

The SWAT Team responds to all requests from city, county, state, or federal agencies to assist them with investigations. The calls range from methamphetamine investigations (lab processing or investigation), surveillance, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) events, barricaded persons, sniper incidents, hostage situations, terrorist confrontations, high-risk warrants service, high-risk arrest situations, dignitary protection, civil or prison disturbance, and incidents on the Washington State Ferries. These services are at no expense to the requesting agency. In the first six months, SWAT has responded to 57 requests from various law enforcement agencies across the state.

"The SWAT Team is an extremely disciplined and highly trained unit which continues to make a difference for the citizens of Washington State every day," stated Chief Ronal Serpas.

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